

**HIGHLAND YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY COMMISSION
COACH'S CODE OF ETHICS**

Interscholastic and youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for coaches to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self control.

I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while coaching in a youth sports event and shall conform my behavior to the following code of conduct:

- *I will place the emotional and physical wellbeing of my players ahead of my desire to win.*
- *I will treat each player as an individual as each of my players has unique characteristics.*
- *I will ensure that each of my players is provided with a safe playing situation.*
- *I will do my best to treat injuries of my players to the best of my knowledge.*
- *I will organize my practices to provide fun and challenging skills while still educating my players on the fundamentals of the sport.*
- *I will lead by example and demonstrate fair play and sportsmanship to my players and parents.*
- *I will refrain from using tobacco products in the presence of my players during practices and games and promote a drug, alcohol and tobacco free lifestyle.*
- *I will be knowledgeable of rules in the sport and will do my best to teach these rules to my players.*
- *I will provide age appropriate coaching techniques and skills.*
- *I will always remember that I am a youth sports coach and the game is for the children to play and have fun with.*
- *I will always remember that my expectations of my player's skills may not be met, but through my coaching can be exceeded.*
- *During the game, I will discuss any issues with the referee calmly and patiently after during play stoppage or after the game.*
- *If you as a coach have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your HYSAC Commission. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.*

WE WOULD LIKE TO STRESS TWO POINTS:

Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

I have read the Code of Ethics and will abide by these guidelines in order to ensure that my players have fun and learn the importance of fair play, good sportsmanship and healthy lifestyles. Failure to abide by these rules could disqualify me from future opportunities to coach and/or manage a youth team sponsored through the Highland Parks & Recreation Department.

Coach/Manager

Date